

Message Text

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ACTION SNM-05

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FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6198
INFO DEA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
US CUSTOMS SVC WASHDC IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MANILA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY
AMEMBASSY SUVA

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BANGKOK AND MANILA FOR DEA

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, NZ, US

SUBJECT: SOUTH PACIFIC ANTI-NARCOTICS TRAINING CONFERENCE:

- GNZ ANNOUNCEMENT

1. PRIME MINISTER MULDOON WOULD LIKE TO BE ABLE TO
ANNOUNCE AT SOUTH PACIFIC FORUM MEETING IN NIUE,
SEPTEMBER 18, THE ANTI-NARCOTICS REGIONAL TRAINING CON-
FERENCE TO BE HELD IN WELLINGTON NEXT FEBRUARY.

2. EMBASSY NARCOTICS COORDINATOR HAS POINTED OUT TO MFA
THAT NEITHER THE EXACT DATES NOR THE SPECIFIC DIVISION
OF ANTI-NARCOTICS TRAINEES BETWEEN TWO FORUM STATE VENUES
(PORT MORESBY AND WELLINGTON) HAVE YET BEEN WORKED OUT.
THE OUTSIDE POSSIBILITY OF A LAST-MINUTE STATE BUDGETARY
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PROBLEM WAS ALSO EXPLAINED.

3. GNZ SEEKS USG'S CONCURRENCE, IF POSSIBLE, IN PRIMIN'S
PROPOSED ANNOUNCEMENT, ESSENTIAL POINTS OF WHICH WOULD BE:

(A) NZ IS EXPERIENCING A REMARKABLE UPSURGE IN NARCOTICS
ABUSE AND TRAFFICKING. IT HAS RECENTLY TAKEN LEGISLATIVE

STEPS TO CONSIDERABLY TOUGHEN ITS OWN ANTI-NARCOTICS LAWS;

(B) THE NARCOTICS PROBLEM, IF NOT ALREADY, WILL VERY SHORTLY BE REGION-WIDE, AND THE FORUM STATES NEED TO MOVE QUICKLY TO EQUIP THEMSELVES TO IDENTIFY AND INTERDICT REGIONAL TRAFFICKING;

(C) THE GNZ, IN COOPERATION WITH U.S. CUSTOMS, DEA, AND STATE (WHO WILL BE PROVIDING THE TRAINERS AND FINANCING), PLANS TO CONDUCT A REGIONAL TRAINING PROGRAM IN WELLINGTON NEXT FEBRUARY;

(D) INVITATIONS WILL BE SENT SHORTLY TO EACH OF THE FORUM STATES INVITING TWO TRAINEES FROM EACH STATE.

4. EMBASSY COMMENT: EVEN IF THE ISSUES OF TRAINING DATES AND TRAINEES (PORT MORESBY VERSUS WELLINGTON) CAN BE RESOLVED BEFORE SEPTEMBER 18, THE EMBASSY WOULD STILL HAVE RESERVATIONS ABOUT A MULDOON ANNOUNCEMENT AT THE FORUM. THE USG WILL NOT BE REPRESENTED AT THE FORUM; THE WELLINGTON TRAINING PROGRAM WAS A USG SUGGESTION; THE USG WILL PROVIDE TRAINERS AND MOST OF THE PROGRAM'S FINANCE; BY AGREEING TO A MULDOON ANNOUNCEMENT AT THE FORUM, THE USG WILL RUN THE RISK OF BEING VERY POORLY IDENTIFIED, FROM THE BEGINNING, IN THIS REGIONAL EFFORT. IN SHORT, IF WE'RE GOING TO DO MUCH OF THE WORK, WHY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NOT BE SURE WE RECEIVE A PROPORTIONATE AMOUNT OF THE CREDIT? ALTHOUGH MULDOON MIGHT, IN FACT, BE VERY GENEROUS IN HIS ANNOUNCEMENT, WE WOULD HAVE TO ACCEPT THAT THE DEGREE OF U.S. IDENTIFICATION WOULD BE OUTSIDE OUR HANDS. END COMMENT.
SELDEN

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